Impact of privatisation of BALCO on Labour

634. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to report titled "Impact of Privatisation on Labour: A study of BALCO Disinvestment" by V.V. Giri National Labour Institute;

(b) whether the study reveals numerous case of violations of shareholders agreement between Government and the strategic partner on labour elated matters;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government on the violations; and

(d) if not, the synopsis of the report and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The author of the Report published by V.V. Giri National labour Institute, had conducted survey of 280 out of 1302 workers who had opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) between 2001 to 2003 Many of the workers interviewed by the author had alleged that they had to opt for VRS in view of pressurisation tactics and growing insecurities at the work place.

(c) and (d) A copy of the Report was sent to BALCO management with the advice that they should strictly adhere to the provisions of the SHA and send a report to the Government. BALCO, in their comments have denied the allegations and have mentioned that the Report is arbitrary and has been prepared without verifying the factual realites. However, since the allegations pertain to labour-related issues, the matter is being referred to the Ministry of Labour for further inquiry and report regarding allegation of violation. Further action will be taken only after receipt of the Report from the Ministry of Labour.

Safety measures in mines

635. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the allotment made for safety measures in mines of Tata Steel, GMDC, DVC, JSPL, ICML and RSMMS;